

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed April 23, 2004. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful examination of this application.

Claims 1, 9, and 12 have been amended solely for the purpose of improving form. Applicant does not acquiesce to any of the subject matter of the claims prior to amendments, and reserves his right to pursue such subject matter in a continuation application.

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled in a previous amendment.

Claims 13-18 are newly added. Support for new claims 13-18 can be found at least in Figures 1-8 and on pages 3 through 6. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 9-18 are pending in this application.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-6 and 9-18 are distinguishable over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Korshun

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,952,641 to Korshun (“Korshun”). The Examiner’s reliance on Korshun is misplaced.

First, in Korshun, the Examiner relies on an information detector 7 that is part of a mouse 5 to constitute a “portable chip card reader in a format of a PC card,” as recited in claims 1, 12, and 13. Contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, neither the information detector 7 nor the mouse 5 is portable or in a format of a PC card. Furthermore, claim 13 recites that the portable chip card is “for insertion into the portable chip card reader.” The chip card 8 disclosed by Korshun, however, is not for insertion into the mouse 5 or information detector 7.

Second, the Examiner relies on the computer 1 (or host computer) that compares the access code of the card 8 to the access code contained in its memory 12 to determine the identity

of the user of card 8 to constitute the claimed validation means of claims 1 and 12. The claimed validation means, however, is part of a security system that is distinct from the host computer 1 disclosed in Korshun. Similarly, the processing module of claim 13 is distinct from the host computer 1 disclosed in Korshun.

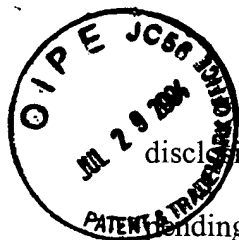
Third, in passing, Korshun discloses that the chip card 8 may be equipped with a detector means for detecting a fingerprint of a user, but makes no teaching or suggestion that such a detector means comprises “an interface for a connection to a network,” as recited in claim 1. (See Korshun, Col. 2, ll. 18-23; FIG. 1). Instead, Korshun discloses that a mouse 5 includes an antenna 6 to communicate with a chip card 8.

Lastly, Korshun fails to disclose a fingerprint sensor module that is “coupled with the portable chip card reader by a detachable plug connection and including a portable SAM or SIM card reader, the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module being processed along with the data read from the portable SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the module to yield an encoded identity information,” as recited in claim 12.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Korshun fails to disclose or even suggest each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 12, and 13 and cannot anticipate those claims. Given the claims (2-6 and 9-11) and (14-18) depend on claims 1 and 13, respectively, Korshun fails to anticipate claims 2-6, 9-11, and 14-18 for the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Korshun

The Examiner rejected claims 2-6, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Korshun. As noted above, Korshun fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claims 1 and 12. Because claims 2-6 and 10 depend from claim 1, Korshun also fails to disclose or suggest the limitations of those claims as well. Therefore, without at least



disclosing or suggesting each and every element of the claims, Korshun cannot render the pending claims unpatentable under § 103(a). Moreover, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for one skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Korshun to achieve the claimed combination of the pending claims 1-6 and 9-18.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the above rejections and place the pending claims 1-6 and 9-18 in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite the allowance of the claims, the Examiner is invited to contact S. H. Michael Kim at (650) 849-6680.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 29, 2004

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Signed: Linda Phillips
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